

REMARKS

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the amendment prior to continuing examination of the application. Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Claims, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-12, 14-19, and 20-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-18, 22 and 23 remain pending following the entry of this response. Claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 15 and 22 have been amended. Claims 6, 9, 19-21 have been cancelled. New claim 31 has been added. Applicants submit that neither the amendments nor the new claim introduces new matter.

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the amendment prior to continuing examination of the application. Applicants submit that the *Rivette* reference cited by the Examiner does not disclose an annotation system configured to provide global annotations, having the characteristics recited by the amended claims. Further, Applicants submit that the *Rivette* reference does not disclose a registry maintained by the annotation system which identifies data elements to which global annotations can be anchored. Further still, Applicants submit that *Rivette* does not disclose an annotation system having an interface configured to capture both annotation content supplied when a global annotation is created for a data element and a context identifying how a data element is used within document when an annotation is created.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/
Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227

PATENT

App. Ser. No.: 10/803,619
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920030418US1
PS Ref. No.: 1032.012917 (IBMK30418)

PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants